

THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for displaying a plurality of visual elements associated with a computer program application, said method comprising:
  - defining a sequential tabbing order for the plurality of visual elements; and
  - displaying at least one graphical linking element extending between the plurality of visual elements, wherein the at least one graphical linking element represents the sequential tabbing order.
2. The method of Claim 1 wherein displaying at least one graphical linking element includes:
  - displaying a first graphical linking element extending between a first visual element in the sequential tabbing order and a second visual element in the sequential tabbing order; and
  - displaying a second graphical linking element extending between the second visual element and a third visual element in the sequential tabbing order.
3. The method of Claim 1 wherein the at least one graphical linking element comprises:
  - a line segment that extends between and graphically connects a first visual element in the sequential tabbing order and a second visual element in the sequential tabbing order; and
  - a graphical element that indicates the direction of the sequential tabbing order between the first and second visual elements.
4. The method of Claim 1 further comprising displaying a plurality of textual order tags such that each of the textual order tags is located adjacent a respective one of the plurality of visual elements and includes text indicating a relative rank of the respective one of the plurality of visual elements in the sequential tabbing order.

5. The method of Claim 1 further comprising reconfiguring the at least one graphical linking element to reflect a new sequential tabbing order responsive to a modification of the sequential tabbing order.

6. The method of Claim 5 further comprising modifying the sequential tabbing order responsive to user input relocating the at least one graphical linking element relative to at least one of the plurality of visual elements.

7. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

defining a second sequential tabbing order for the plurality of visual elements, wherein the first sequential tabbing order includes a first visual element not in the second sequential tabbing order, and the second sequential tabbing order includes a second visual element not in the first sequential tabbing order;

displaying a first graphical linking element extending between the first visual element and another of the plurality of visual elements, wherein the first graphical linking element represents at least a portion of the first sequential tabbing order; and

displaying a second graphical linking element extending between the second visual element and another of the plurality of visual elements, wherein the second graphical linking element represents at least a portion of the second sequential tabbing order.

8. A system for displaying on a display device a plurality of visual elements associated with a computer program application, said system comprising:

means for defining a sequential tabbing order for the plurality of visual elements; and

means for displaying at least one graphical linking element extending between the plurality of visual elements, wherein the at least one graphical linking element represents the sequential tabbing order.

9. The system of Claim 8 wherein the means for displaying at least one graphical linking element includes:

means for displaying a first graphical linking element extending between a first visual element in the sequential tabbing order and a second visual element in the sequential tabbing order; and

means for displaying a second graphical linking element extending between the second visual element and a third visual element in the sequential tabbing order.

10. The system of Claim 8 wherein the at least one graphical linking element comprises:

a line segment that extends between and graphically connects a first visual element in the sequential tabbing order and a second visual element in the sequential tabbing order; and

a graphical element that indicates the direction of the sequential tabbing order between the first and second visual elements.

11. The system of Claim 8 further comprising means for displaying a plurality of textual order tags such that each of the textual order tags is located adjacent a respective one of the plurality of visual elements and includes text indicating a relative rank of the respective one of the plurality of visual elements in the sequential tabbing order.

12. The system of Claim 8 further comprising means for reconfiguring the at least one graphical linking element to reflect a new sequential tabbing order responsive to a modification of the sequential tabbing order.

13. The system of Claim 12 further comprising means for modifying the sequential tabbing order responsive to user input relocating the at least one graphical linking element relative to at least one of the plurality of visual elements.

14. The system of Claim 8 further comprising:

means for defining a second sequential tabbing order for the plurality of visual elements, wherein the first sequential tabbing order includes a first visual element not in the second sequential tabbing order,

and the second sequential tabbing order includes a second visual element not in the first sequential tabbing order;

means for displaying a first graphical linking element extending between the first visual element and another of the plurality of visual elements, wherein the first graphical linking element represents at least a portion of the first sequential tabbing order; and

means for displaying a second graphical linking element extending between the second visual element and another of the plurality of visual elements, wherein the second graphical linking element represents at least a portion of the second sequential tabbing order.

15. A computer program product for displaying a plurality of visual elements associated with a computer program application, said computer program product comprising:

a computer readable storage medium having computer readable program code embodied in the medium, the computer readable program code comprising:

computer readable program code configured to define a sequential tabbing order for the plurality of visual elements; and

computer readable program code configured to display at least one graphical linking element extending between the plurality of visual elements, wherein the at least one graphical linking element represents the sequential tabbing order.

16. The computer program product of Claim 15 wherein the computer readable program code configured to display at least one graphical linking element includes:

computer readable program code configured to display a first graphical linking element extending between a first visual element in the sequential tabbing order and a second visual element in the sequential tabbing order; and

computer readable program code configured to display a second graphical linking element extending between the second visual element and a third visual element in the sequential tabbing order.

17. The computer program product of Claim 15 wherein the at least one graphical linking element comprises:

a line segment that extends between and graphically connects a first visual element in the sequential tabbing order and a second visual element in the sequential tabbing order; and

a graphical element that indicates the direction of the sequential tabbing order between the first and second visual elements.

18. The computer program product of Claim 15 further comprising computer readable program code configured to display a plurality of textual order tags such that each of the textual order tags is located adjacent a respective one of the plurality of visual elements and includes text indicating a relative rank of the respective one of the plurality of visual elements in the sequential tabbing order.

19. The computer program product of Claim 15 further comprising computer readable program code configured to reconfigure the at least one graphical linking element to reflect a new sequential tabbing order responsive to a modification of the sequential tabbing order.

20. The computer program product of Claim 19 further comprising computer readable program code configured to modify the sequential tabbing order responsive to user input relocating the at least one graphical linking element relative to at least one of the plurality of visual elements.

21. The computer program product of Claim 15 further comprising:  
computer readable program code configured to define a second sequential tabbing order for the plurality of visual elements, wherein the first sequential tabbing order includes a first visual element not in the

second sequential tabbing order, and the second sequential tabbing order includes a second visual element not in the first sequential tabbing order;

computer readable program code configured to display a first graphical linking element extending between the first visual element and another of the plurality of visual elements, wherein the first graphical linking element represents at least a portion of the first sequential tabbing order; and

computer readable program code configured to display a second graphical linking element extending between the second visual element and another of the plurality of visual elements, wherein the second graphical linking element represents at least a portion of the second sequential tabbing order.